

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated September 11, 2008. Claims 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 17, 24, 32, 41, 55 to 59, 67, 70 and 73 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 79 to 95 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 29, 33, 36, 37, 42, 47, 50, 52, 60, 66, 68, 69, 71, 74 and 75 have been amended. No new matter has been added by such amendments. Claims 1, 2, 50 and 79 to 95 are in independent form. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for all payments due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,456,444 to Yumiki et al. ("Yumiki"). The Office Action rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yumiki in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,596,449 to Iwata et al. ("Iwata"). The Office Action rejected claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,356,307 to Ohkawara et al. in view of Iwata. Although Applicant has certain arguments against such rejections, Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with indication of allowable subject matter for purposes of advancing the prosecution of the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the patentability of the subject matter of the rejected claims through filing one or more continuation applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action objected to claims 3-49 and 51-78 as being dependent upon a rejected based claim. The Office Action stated that claims these claims 3-49 and 51-78 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten such dependent claims in independent form. Specifically:

Prior dependent claim 3 is rewritten as amended independent claim 1.

Prior dependent claim 4 is rewritten as new independent claim 79.

Prior dependent claim 5 is rewritten as new independent claim 80.

Prior dependent claim 8 is rewritten as new independent claim 81.

Prior dependent claim 12 is rewritten as new independent claim 82.

Prior dependent claim 13 is rewritten as new independent claim 83.

Prior dependent claim 17 is rewritten as new independent claim 84.

Prior dependent claim 24 is rewritten as new independent claim 85.
Prior dependent claim 31 is rewritten as amended independent claim 2.
Prior dependent claim 32 is rewritten as new independent claim 86.
Prior dependent claim 41 is rewritten as new independent claim 87.
Prior dependent claim 51 is rewritten as amended independent claim 50.
Prior dependent claim 55 is rewritten as new independent claim 88.
Prior dependent claim 56 is rewritten as new independent claim 89.
Prior dependent claim 57 is rewritten as new independent claim 90.
Prior dependent claim 58 is rewritten as new independent claim 91.
Prior dependent claim 59 is rewritten as new independent claim 92.
Prior dependent claim 67 is rewritten as new independent claim 93.
Prior dependent claim 70 is rewritten as new independent claim 94.
Prior dependent claim 73 is rewritten as new independent claim 95.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that such independent claims (and dependent claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18 to 23, 25 to 30, 33 to 40, 42 to 49, 52 to 54, 60 to 66, 68, 69, 71, 72 and 74 to 78) are in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The Office Action objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) citing that they do not include certain reference signs mentioned in the description. Applicant has amended paragraphs [0212], [0216], [0217], [0219] and [0220]. Moreover, Applicant has amended Figs. 38 to 40 and 61. Applicant submits that these amendments overcome such objection.

Specification

The Office Action objected to the disclosure citing informalities. As requested by the Office Action, Applicant has reviewed the Specification and has made amendments to correct typographical errors and informalities. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these amendments overcome these objections.

Claim Objections

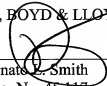
The Office Action objected to dependent claim 12 and stated that it includes a reference character which is not enclosed in parenthesis. Dependent claims 12 has been rewritten as new independent claim 82 and does not include the above mentioned reference character. The Office Action objected to claim 52 as being in improper form and stated that it contained a misspelled word. Claim 52 has been amended to depend from claim 50 and the misspelled word has been corrected. Accordingly, Applicant submits these amendments overcome such objections.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY



Renate P. Smith
Reg. No. 43,117
Cust. No. 24573

Dated: December 11, 2008